

## MEXICANS HELPED.

There Were at Least Two in the Party That Exhumed the Body of Clemente Vergara.

Laredo, Texas, March 9.—Information secured tonight, unofficial but from sources usually well informed, indicated that at least two Mexicans were members of the party which exhumed the body of the Texas ranchman, Clemente Vergara, from the cemetery at Hidalgo, Mex., and returned it to the American side of the border early yesterday. Eight Americans are said to have been the others in the expedition. It is also reported that one of the Mexicans remained in Mexico and friends tonight expressed concern for his safety.

Officials here, both federal and State, refused to discuss the incident tonight, other than to repeat their former statements that the body was delivered to them on the American side of the boundary. At whose solicitation they assembled at the point designated or who were the men who made the trip into Mexico they refuse to say.

The formal State inquiry, ordered by Gov. O. B. Colquitt, is expected to begin here tomorrow under the direction of the State adjutant general, Henry Hutchins.

A. B. Garrett, United States consul at Nuevo Laredo, forwarded his report to Washington today. What it contained was not divulged. Mr. Garrett was one of the party which received the body at the river bank.

Mexican government officials at Nuevo Laredo have refused to discuss the incident. Until the body was found at Hidalgo, persistent denial was made that harm had befallen the American. Gen. Alvarez, commander of the federal garrison at Nuevo Laredo, insisted that Vergara had escaped from his guards at Hidalgo and had joined the constitutionalists.

The body will be held here until it is viewed by the State adjutant general.

## MYSTERY CLEARED.

Comprehensive Reports of Recovery of Body of Clemente Vergara—No American Offense.

Washington, March 10.—Comprehensive reports from Maj. Gen. Bliss and American Consul Garrett at Laredo, received at the war and state departments today, cleared up the mystery which had surrounded the delivery on American soil of the body of the American rancher, Clemente Vergara. The reports completely satisfied the officials that no act has been committed by national or State agents in violation of Mexican sovereignty and that if there were any offense in the removal of the body from Mexico, it was committed by individuals, so the matter could not be made an international issue.

Secretary Bryan stated that he would not undertake to prosecute the persons who obtained the body, even if he knew their identity, which he did not, beyond the fact established by Gen. Bliss' report that they were civilians and probably Mexicans.

The finding of the body of Vergara has had the result of advancing the prosecution of the claim against the Huerta government for reparation, and today Secretary Bryan transmitted the telegraphic report from Consul Garrett to Charge O'Shaughnessy in Mexico City. It is understood that the primary purpose of this is to disprove the original allegation of the Mexican federal commander at Nuevo Laredo that Vergara had made his escape from captivity and joined the constitutionalists.

With the body in evidence, as soon as further facts as to the character of Vergara's fatal wounds are developed by the investigation Gov. Colquitt is making, Mr. O'Shaughnessy will be prepared to call upon Gen. Huerta to redeem his promise to punish the federal officers who killed Vergara.

## PRICES OF FOOD GOING DOWN

Average is Still Well Above That of Year Ago, Though it Has Decreased.

Washington, March 6.—Food prices in the United States reached the highest level in 24 years on November 15, 1913. Since that date there has been a slight decline, though the average still is well above that of a year ago. The department of labor today made public a report showing retail prices of food in 40 important industrial cities of the country.

"Throughout the whole of 1913 high prices prevailed," said the report, "while the last quarter of the year was a period of decline in the prices of 12 of the 15 articles of food observed." It further points that the decline "was more than counterbal-

anced by an advance in the price of eggs to a level never before reached."

For three of the articles, eggs, cornmeal and milk, the highest price was reached in November. For the remaining 17 articles—sugar, butter, hens, flour, sirloin steak, round steak, rib roast, bacon, ham and lard, pork chops and potatoes—prices were below the maximum quoted earlier in the year.

When the price of each of the 15 articles is weighed according to average consumption "in workingmen's families" the statement shows "retail prices were at a higher level on November 15, 1913, than at any time during the 24 years preceding, when they reached a maximum of 72.8 per cent. above the average for 1890 to 1899, 9.11 per cent. above the price on December 15, 1912, and 14.5 per cent. above the price on December 15, 1911."

A further comparison of retail prices on December 15, 1913, with prices on the same date in 1912 shows that 12 of the 15 articles for which quotations are given were higher and three were lower in price. Potatoes had advanced 43.7 per cent; fresh eggs 21.9 per cent; pork chops 16.8 per cent; round steak 13.1 per cent; rib roast 10 per cent; sirloin steak 8.9 per cent; hams 7.9 per cent; hens 6.7 per cent; cornmeal 6.6 per cent; bacon 4.5 per cent; milk 1.9 per cent; and lard 7 per cent. Sugar declined 8.6 per cent; butter 2.9 per cent; and flour 6 per cent.

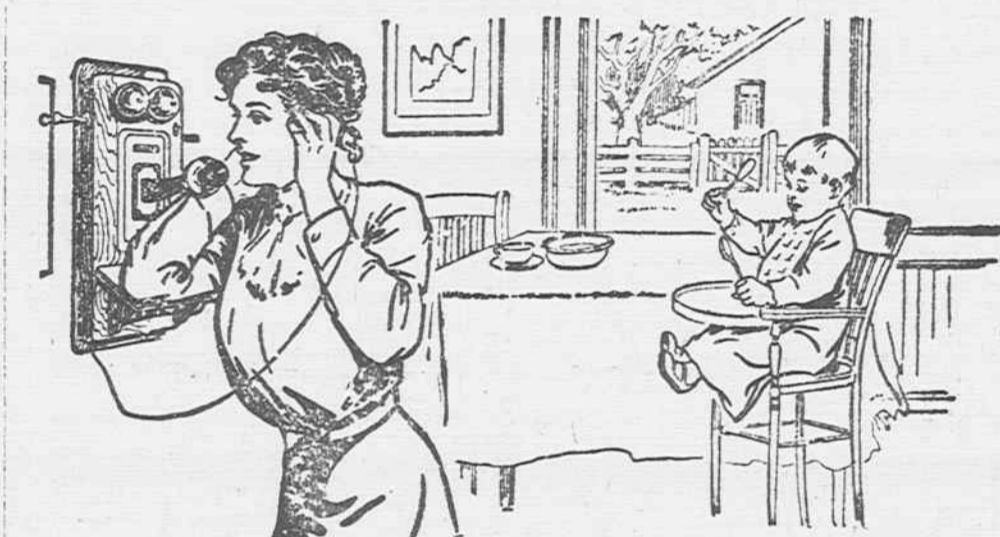
According to a statement issued by the department of commerce today importations of foodstuffs shows a remarkable increase during the decade, 1903-1913. Breadstuffs and meats each quadrupled their imports and imports of fruits and nuts rose from \$25,000,000 to nearly \$50,000,000. Cocoa, crude and prepared, rose from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 and coffee from \$61,000,000 to \$105,000,000.

## RANGERS FROM TEXAS GET VERGARA'S BODY

Soldiers From Lone Star State Cross the Line Into Mexico—No Interference Encountered.

Laredo, Texas, March 8.—Texas rangers, who secretly crossed into Mexico last night, today brought to the American side the mutilated body of Clemente Vergara, Texas ranchman, and established the fact of his execution after he was seized by Mexican federals.

The rangers were not opposed and accomplished their search without the slightest violence, taking the body from a grave in Hidalgo cemetery almost within sight of the Texas border. The seizure was divested of possibly grave aspects in international complications by reason of the fact that the rangers were practically making use of permission granted officially by Mexican federal authorities several days ago for recovery of the body. This permission had been given to United States Consul Garrett at Nuevo Laredo, but he did not get the body because of what he reported as dangers attending search for it in the



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vicinity of Hidalgo.

Vergara was shot twice through the head and once through the neck. His skull was crushed as by a blow from a rifle butt and the charred fingers of the left hand indicated that he had been tortured before being put to death.

## Body is Recognized.

Identification was made by the dead man's son and by numerous friends, some of whom were in the party of nine, led by the State border patrol, which made the grim journey to Hidalgo cemetery during the early morning hours today. The body was not badly decomposed, despite its three weeks' burial and in addition to recognizing the features, young Vergara took a bit of cloth from the trousers which inclosed the body and matched it to the coat which his father had on the day he crossed the river.

The body was brought into the United States at a point 45 miles northwest of Laredo, opposite Hidalgo and near the Vergara ranch. American Consul Garrett of Nuevo Laredo, deputy sheriffs and other authorities were waiting to receive it. Pending the arrival of an undertaker from Laredo, an armed force stood guard over the body.

Recovery of the body was made by a force of Texans, including friends of the dead man, acting with the troops of Texas rangers, under Capt. Saunders who have been investigating the circumstances of Vergara's seizure by federals for G. v. Colquitt. A secret investigation in which many Mexicans had been questioned is understood to have preceded the trip in-

to Mexico. Leading the force was a man who claimed to have been a witness to both the execution and burial of Vergara.

## Task is Easy.

The force gathered near the Vergara ranch, not far from the spot where Vergara crossed the river to meet the Mexican federals who promised remuneration for stolen horses. Moving silently they began the overland march to Hidalgo, a distance of about five miles. They avoided the town, it was said, under the cover of night and met no one to question their journey. Location of the grave where Vergara was supposed to lie proved an easy task, for it has been a centre of speculation and wonder since it appeared, after a swinging body had been cut down from the place of execution after the hue and cry over Vergara's disappearance started an investigation. The body had been rudely fixed on a stretcher carried by six of the dead man's friends, the procession started unchallenged on the return journey which brought Clemente Vergara home again to the United States.

It is understood a thorough examination of the body has been ordered by the State authorities.

## The Very Unusual.

Happy Hours.

The Struggling Lawyer (pompously)—Anything unusual happen while I was out?

Office Boy (after some thought)—Yes'r. There wasn't any debt collectors call.

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